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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 January 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Right to Development in India and Poor Condition of Dalits

The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human being and all people are entitled to participate, contribute, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. My organization wants to bring council attention towards India where Dalits have no right to development for their families and future. Nor any representation of Dalits in educational institutions, governmental jobs and elected positions and Dalits continue to remain the most underprivileged class of Indian society: the stigma they face remains evident to this day. In India, Dalits in general continue to survive under inhumane and degrading conditions. Around 80 per cent of Dalits live in rural areas. Economic exploitation remains their most acute problem. They are all marginal farmers or landless labourers. Many are in debt and are obliged to work off their debts as bonded labourers. Mob violence against Dalit communities is frequent, sometimes led by landlords, and has been especially noticeable in situations where Dalit workers have joined labour unions or made progress in gaining education, economic mobility and right to development. Dalit women have been particularly badly affected in recent times. They are discriminated against not only because of their sex but also because of religious, social and cultural structures which have given them the lowest position in the social hierarchy. In areas such as health, education, housing, employment and wages, application of legal rights, decision-making and political participation, and rural development, Dalit women have been almost entirely excluded from development policies and programmes. No change has been made in the attitudes of Indian society towards these women and they continue to be oppressed and marginalized. Many Dalit families have left rural areas to live in slums and on the pavements of the rapidly growing cities. Here they also do the worst jobs for the lowest wages. Many Dalits work as casual day labourers in small factories, quarries, brick kilns or on construction sites. Indian government failed to provide them right to education, right to health facilities, right to economic and right to development. Therefore, we urge this council to ask Indian government to protect Dalits right to development and also provided them opportunity for better livelihood.
